

State of Indiana
Commission for Higher Education

**Resolution Endorsing the Hoosier Hope Scholarships
and World Class Scholars Fund**

January 12, 2007

WHEREAS many of Indiana's most qualified high school and college graduates leave the State upon graduation—resulting in a “brain drain” reflected in the fact that the State ranks 44th in the nation in the percentage of residents over 25 with a bachelor's degree; and

WHEREAS that brain drain causes significant harm to the State's economy, the development of knowledge-based and other high-wage industries, and the well-being and quality of life of Hoosiers; and

WHEREAS the Indiana Commission for Higher Education long has identified reversing the brain drain as one of its primary objectives, and highlighted the importance of this issue in its *Framework for Policy and Planning Development in Higher Education*; and

WHEREAS on December 14, 2006, Governor Mitch Daniels proposed a creative plan to decrease Indiana's brain drain by investing as much as \$1 billion or more in creating a new scholarship program for top-performing Hoosier students who remain in-state after graduation and by creating a fund to attract and retain world-class scholars and researchers to Indiana's public universities;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED,

THAT the Indiana Commission for Higher Education hereby endorses Governor Mitch Daniels' proposal to secure increased funding for the Hoosier Hope Scholarships and the World Class Scholars Fund initiatives; and

THAT the Commission applauds the Governor's bold and innovative effort to reverse the State's brain drain; and

THAT the Commission urges the Indiana General Assembly to work with the Governor, higher education leaders, and other concerned constituencies to review and substantively adopt these initiatives; and

THAT the Commission offers its assistance to the Governor and the Indiana General Assembly in any way it can be useful in deliberations surrounding these initiatives; and

THAT the Commission directs the Chair to convey this resolution and the Commission's offer of assistance to Governor Daniels and the leaders of the Indiana General Assembly.